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Celebrity

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Celebrity

Alicia McGhee

If this life were written
with another pen,
you would be a blues artist
whose albums would clutter
my floor as I soak up your gospel
whenever I got down;
or you would be a famous author,
whose stories read me like an open letter
and told the secrets I struggle
to discover on my own;
or you would be a teacher,
lecturing my class on the past
and future of our heritage,
the strength we were derived from
and the strength we'll need to
move on;
or you would be my favorite revolutionary,
your name chipped and set in stone
as a pathway to the legacy
that is yet to be known;
or you would be a legendary filmmaker,
casting the freedom rides
and Panther marches of your time
in a flickering display,
revealing to our native land
its pride and shame;
or you would be a preacher,
leading your flock to the sea
and looking over us protectively,
even me.
Instead you are just my father.